

**Amendments to the Claims**

Please amend the claims to read as follows:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Canceled)
3. (Canceled)
4. (Canceled)
5. (Canceled)
6. (Canceled)
7. (Canceled)
8. (Canceled)

9. (Currently Amended) A method of making a cement board having alkaline properties, comprising:

(a) forming a mesh first layer from mesh fibers, which mesh fibers comprise a thermoplastic material having a composition that is both, water resistant and alkali resistant, and which mesh fibers further comprise glass core strand material protectively coated with the thermoplastic material prior to forming the mesh first layer;

(b) uniting the mesh first layer with a second layer having randomly oriented fibers joined by a hydrophilic chemical binder, which randomly oriented fibers comprise, a thermoplastic material having a composition that is both, water resistant and alkali resistant;

(c) applying a wetting agent on the water resistant and alkali resistant, mesh fibers and on said second layer having the water resistant and alkali resistant, randomly oriented fibers, respectively, to enhance adhesion of an alkali cementitious matrix, wherein said hydrophilic

binder on said randomly oriented fibers reduces the need for said wetting agent on said second layer;

(d) ~~wetting~~ imbedding the mesh fibers and the randomly oriented fibers ~~with~~ in an alkali cementitious matrix; and

(e) forming the cement board by hardening the alkali cementitious matrix while the mesh fibers and the randomly oriented fibers are imbedded therein, and wherein the mesh fibers and the randomly oriented fibers are protected from premature alkali damage.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9, further comprising:

applying the wetting agent on the mesh fibers, prior to the step of uniting the mesh first layer and the second layer. ~~forming the mesh first layer having the mesh fibers.~~

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, further comprising:

applying the wetting agent on the randomly oriented fibers, prior to the step of uniting the mesh first layer with the second layer having the randomly oriented fibers.

12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, further comprising:

uniting the mesh first layer with the second layer, prior to applying the wetting agent on the mesh fibers and the randomly oriented fibers.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, further comprising:  
simultaneously applying the wetting agent on the mesh first layer, and on the second  
layer.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 13, further comprising:  
conveying the united mesh first layer and second layer in a continuous production  
apparatus, while applying the wetting agent on the mesh fibers, and while applying the wetting  
agent on the randomly oriented fibers, and while wetting the mesh fibers and the randomly  
oriented fibers with the alkali cementitious matrix, and while hardening the alkali cementitious  
matrix.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, further comprising:  
simultaneously applying the wetting agent on the mesh fibers and the randomly oriented fibers.